THE SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON AND DISTRICT

TRENDS AND FORECASTS

Hamilton-Wentworth

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INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY WELFARE:
HOW DO WE COMPARE?

Statistics Canada divides the Province of Ontario into fifty Census divisions which are equivalent to county boundaries. Thus, the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth is one Census division. The final results of the 1986 national Census for Census divisions were released in 1988 and we have done some "number-crunching" to discover how Hamilton-Wentworth compared to the other forty-nine Census divisions in Ontario on a number of key dimensions.

In order to present all of this data in a simple manner, the actual numbers were converted to a statistical entity known as T-scores. This transformation automatically sets all of the averages at fifty with a standard deviation of ten. A conversion to T-scores allows for a simple presentation of a large number of different variables on one common scale. This issue of Trends and Forecasts presents the results in both their raw data form and as T-scores.

The results present an interesting profile of the Region in 1986.

From an unemployment perspective, the Region had a male unemployment rate which was slightly above average, relative to the other Census divisions. Female and youth unemployment rates, however, were below average.

With respect to the proportion of individuals receiving some form of government assistance through transfer payment, the Region was below average but our proportion of low income families was quite high. This suggests that the Region had a disproportionately high concentration of "working poor". We also had a relatively high concentration of lone-parent families and renters who spent more than 30% of their income on rent. Local homeowners, on the other hand, were less likely to spend more than 30% of their income on mortgage payments. The Region was also slightly above average with respect to the percentage of the adult population with less than a Grade 9 education.

In terms of ethnicity, the Region continued to show an above average concentration of immigrants and residents who spoke neither English nor French in their homes.

Our concentration of senior citizens was very close to the average for other Census divisions.

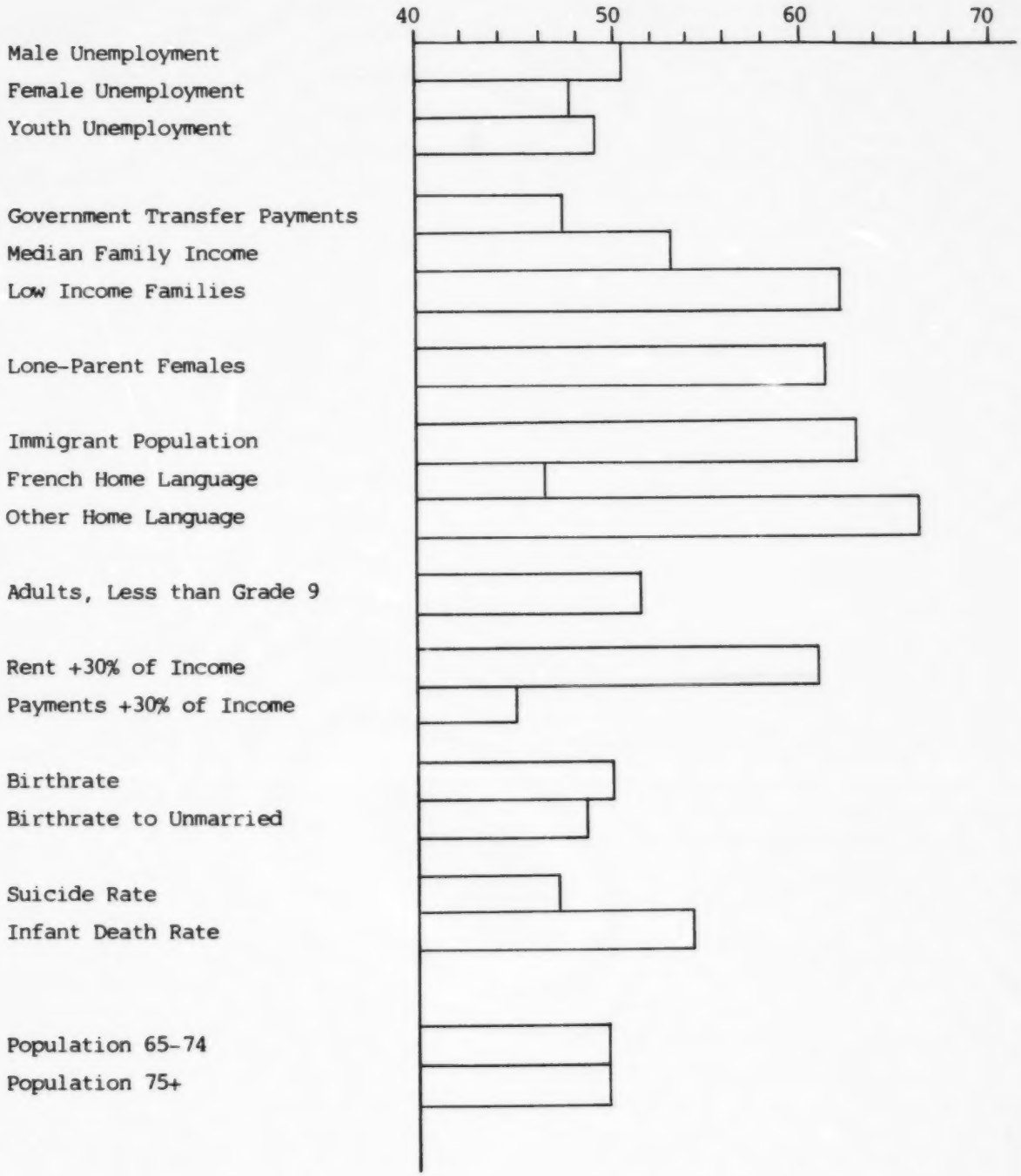
The Census data was supplemented with four indicators from the 1986 Vital Statistics publication for the Province of Ontario, which also presents data on the county level. Birthrates were average and birthrates to unmarried mothers were slightly below average. Our rate of suicide was slightly below average and the infant death rate was slightly above average.

OVERVIEW

Taken together, these results confirm the continued role of the Region as a multi-cultural centre. With respect to poverty, we continue to have a high concentration of low-income families, despite the absence of unusually high unemployment rates or an unusually high dependence on government transfer payments. The poverty problem in the Region is probably, therefore, a function of a greater concentration of "working poor" and lone-parent families.

It was also noteworthy that the relatively high proportion of female-headed lone-parent families was not due to an unusually high birthrate to unmarried mothers.

T-SCORES


40
50
60
70
Male Unemployment
Female Unemployment
Youth Unemployment
Government Transfer Payments
Median Family Income
Low Income Families
Lone-Parent Females
Immigrant Population
French Home Language
Other Home Language
Adults, Less than Grade 9
Rent +30% of Income
Payments +30% of Income
Birthrate
Birthrate to Unmarried
Suicide Rate
Infant Death Rate
Population 65-74
Population 75+

ACTUAL RATES

Variable	Hamilton-Wentworth	Average for Census Divisions
Male Unemployment	6.7	6.6
Female Unemployment	9.0	9.5
Youth Unemployment	13.4	13.8
Government Transfer Payments	11.1	12.0
Low Income Families	14.4	11.3
Median Family Income	35,334	33,503
Lone-Parent Families - female	10.5	9.8
Immigrant Population	24.2	13.0
French Home Language	.44	6.2
Other Home Language	8.8	3.4
Rent > 30%	5.3	4.2
Payment > 30%	4.8	5.6
Population 65-74	7.3	7.4
Population 75+	4.8	4.8
Suicides/10,000	1.1	1.3
Birthrate	14.4	14.4
Births to Unmarried	13.3	15.6
Infant Death Rate	9.2	7.8

DEFINITIONS

MALE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

Unemployed males as a percentage of the male labour force.

FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

Unemployed females as a percentage of female labour force.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT:

Unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the total labour force aged 15-24.

GOVERNMENT TRANSFER PAYMENTS:

The total amount of income to residents from government programs as a percentage of total income.

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME:

The level of income which divides the distribution of family income in half - i.e., 50% of families are above the median income and 50% are below.

LOW INCOME FAMILIES:

The number of families with an income less than the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-off Point for 1985. The low income cut-off points for an area with a population of 100,000 to 499,990 in 1985 were -

1	person -	9,719
2	persons -	12,815
3	persons -	17,115
4	persons -	19,779
5	persons -	22,963
6	persons -	25,026
7	persons -	27,606

LONE-PARENT FAMILIES - FEMALE:

Lone-parent families, with a female head, as a percentage of all families.

IMMIGRANT POPULATION:

Persons born outside of the total population.

FRENCH HOME LANGUAGE:

Number of persons who "most often" use French in the home as a percentage of the total population.

OTHER HOME LANGUAGE:

Number of persons who "most often" use languages other than English or French in the home.

ADULTS, LESS THAN GRADE 9:

Number of persons aged 15 and over who have less than a Grade 9 education as a percentage of the total population 15 and over.

RENT > 30% OF INCOME:

Number of households who spend more than 30% of their income on rental payments as a percentage of total households.

PAYMENTS > 30% OF INCOME:

Number of households who spend more than 30% of their income on house payments as a percentage of total households.

SUICIDES/10,000:

Number of suicides per 10,000 population.

BIRTHRATE:

Number of live births per 1,000 population.

BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS:

Number of births to single, widowed or divorced women as a percentage of total live births.

INFANT DEATH RATE:

Number of deaths of infants aged 1 year or less per 1,000 live births.